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EXAMINER

PENDERGRASS, KYLE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/870,972	Applicant(s) STRINGHAM, GARY G.	
	Examiner Kyle M Pendergrass	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, & 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yehuda et al. (US 6,266,683) & Sugaya (US 6,714,313).

Regarding claim 1, Yehuda et al., teaches an output distribution module for selectively creating a plurality of job output subsets from execution of a single document production job wherein at least two of said plurality of job output subsets contain different numbers of output documents (*column 7:lines 28-38, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document*). Yehuda et al., also teaches printing document segments (*column 8:lines 27-34, participants are enabled to print document segments*).

However, Yehuda does not teach explicitly an apparatus for executing a document production job to produce job output comprising documents, wherein the apparatus has a plurality of output receptacles for receiving the job output documents.

Sugaya, teaches a multi-bin unit that directs printed outputs to separate output receptacles via a computer program (*column 9:lines 5-6, ejection bins stack sorted papers, column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus or printing system*).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the bin unit taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be printed and kept separate from each other. Each section could then be more readily accessed because they have already been separately printed.

Regarding claim 2, the claim rejection of claim 1 is representative of claim 2. See Yehuda et al., wherein said output distribution module further comprises a subset quantity selector control for specifying a number of documents to place in each of said job output subsets. (*column 9:lines 49-52, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments*).

Regarding claim 3, the claim rejection for claim 1 is representative of claim 3. See Segaya wherein each of the plurality of output receptacles has a unique identifier, and wherein said output distribution module further comprises a subset receptacle selector for selecting which of the plurality of output receptacles to direct each of said plurality of output subsets to (*Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer*).

Regarding claim 7, the claim rejection for claim 1 is representative of claim 7. See Segaya wherein the apparatus comprises a printer connected to at least one computer (*Figure 3, PCs 300 and 301 are connected to printer 100*), and wherein at least a portion of said control module comprises program code for execution by the computer (*column 9:lines 5-6, ejection bins stack sorted papers, column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus or printing system*).

Regarding claim 8, the claim rejection for claim 7 is representative of claim 8. See Segaya wherein said control module further comprises a subset receptacle selector for selecting which of the plurality of output receptacles to direct each of said plurality of output subsets to, said subset receptacle selector accessible through the computer (*Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer*). See Yehuda et al., wherein said control module further comprises a subset quantity selector for specifying a number of output documents from said single job to be placed in each of said output

subset (*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments).

Regarding claim 9, the claim rejection for claim 7 is representative of claim 9. See Segaya wherein said distribution control module comprises a driver running on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37*, printer driver is located on host computer). See Yehuda et al., wherein said distribution control module comprises a subset quantity selector for selecting a quantity of documents to be placed in each of said output subsets (*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments), said subset quantity selector comprising a component of said driver accessible through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents).

Regarding claim 10, the claim rejection for claim 9 is representative of claim 10. See Segaya wherein said driver further comprises a subset receptacle selector for specifying which of the plurality of output receptacles to direct each of said plurality of output subsets to, and wherein said subset quantity selector and said subset receptacle selector are accessible through a table interface (*Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3*, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer).

Regarding claim 12, Yehuda et al., teach creating a plurality of subsets of output documents from a single print job wherein at least two of said plurality of output sets have different numbers of documents (*column 7:lines 28-38*, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document), and having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments, *column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web

applications to view and manage the documents). Yehuda et al., also teach printing document segments (*column 8:lines 27-34*, participants are enabled to print document segments).

Yehuda et al., do not teach a printer driver for execution by the computer for functional interface with the printer, wherein the driver causes the computer to selectively deposit each of said output subsets in different output trays, said driver having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, said printer driver accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer.

However, Segaya teaches a printer driver for execution by the computer for functional interface with the printer, wherein the driver causes the computer to selectively deposit each of said output subsets in different output trays, said driver having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, said printer driver accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37*, printer driver is located on host computer, *Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3*, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the bin unit and computer program taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be printed and kept separate from each other. Each section could then be more readily accessed because they have already been separately printed.

Regarding claim 13, the claim rejection of claim 12 is representative of claim 13. See Yehuda et al., teachings having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments, *column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents). Also, see Sugaya teachings having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, and accessible through a graphic

user interface on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37*, printer driver is located on host computer, *Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3*, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer).

Regarding claim 14, Yehuda et al., teach creating a plurality of subsets of output documents from a single print job wherein at least two of said plurality of output sets have different numbers of documents (*column 7:lines 28-38*, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document), and having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments, *column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents). Yehuda et al., also teach printing document segments (*column 8:lines 27-34*, participants are enabled to print document segments).

Yehuda et al., do not teach a printer driver for execution by the computer for functional interface with the printer, wherein the driver causes the computer to selectively deposit each of said output subsets in different output trays, said driver having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, said printer driver accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer.

However, Segaya teaches a printer driver for execution by the computer for functional interface with the printer, wherein the driver causes the computer to selectively deposit each of said output subsets in different output trays, said driver having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, said printer driver accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37*, printer driver is located on host computer, *Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3*, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer).

Additionally, regarding claim 14, Segaya teaches a computer program product for use with a document production apparatus, the apparatus for executing production jobs to produce job output, the

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apparatus being of the type that has a plurality of output receptacles for receiving the job output, the program product comprising computer executable instructions embedded in a computer readable medium (*column 9:lines 5-6, ejection bins stack sorted papers, column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus or printing system*)

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the bin unit and computer program taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be printed and kept separate from each other. Each section could then be more readily accessed because they have already been separately printed.

Regarding claim 15, the claim rejection of claim 14 is representative of claim 15. See Sugaya teachings having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, and accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37, printer driver is located on host computer, Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer*).

Regarding claim 16, Yehuda et al., teach creating a plurality of subsets of output documents from a single print job wherein at least two of said plurality of output sets have different numbers of documents (*column 7:lines 28-38, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document*), and having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 9:lines 49-52, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments, column 4:lines 25-42, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents*). Yehuda et al., also teach printing document segments (*column 8:lines 27-34, participants are enabled to print document segments*).

Yehuda et al., do not teach a printer driver for execution by the computer for functional interface with the printer, wherein the driver causes the computer to selectively deposit each of said output subsets in different output trays, said driver having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, said printer driver accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer.

However, Segaya teaches a printer driver for execution by the computer for functional interface with the printer, wherein the driver causes the computer to selectively deposit each of said output subsets in different output trays, said driver having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, said printer driver accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37*, printer driver is located on host computer, *Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3*, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer).

Additionally, regarding claim 16, Segaya teaches a computer program product for use with a document production apparatus, the apparatus for executing production jobs to produce job output, the apparatus being of the type that has a plurality of output receptacles for receiving the job output, the program product comprising computer executable instructions embedded in a computer readable medium (*column 9:lines 5-6*, ejection bins stack sorted papers, *column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2*, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus or printing system)

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the bin unit and computer program taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be printed and kept separate from each other. Each section could then be more readily accessed because they have already been separately printed.

Regarding claim 17, the claim rejection of claim 16 is representative of claim 17. See Yehuda et al., teachings having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer

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(*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments, *column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents). Also, see Sugaya teachings having a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, and accessible through a graphic user interface on the computer (*column 19:lines 34-37*, printer driver is located on host computer, *Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3*, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer).

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yehuda et al. (US 6,266,683) & Segaya (US 6,714,313) & Maniwa et al. (US 5,768,483)

Regarding claim 4, Yehuda et al., teaches an output distribution module for selectively creating a plurality of job output subsets from execution of a single document production job wherein at least two of said plurality of job output subsets contain different numbers of output documents (*column 7:lines 28-38*, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document). Yehuda et al., also teaches printing document segments (*column 8:lines 27-34*, participants are enabled to print document segments).

However, Yehuda does not teach explicitly an apparatus for executing a document production job to produce job output comprising documents, wherein the apparatus has a plurality of output receptacles for receiving the job output documents.

Sugaya, teaches a multi-bin unit that directs printed outputs to separate output receptacles via a computer program (*column 9:lines 5-6*, ejection bins stack sorted papers, *column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2*, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus or printing system).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the bin unit taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be printed and kept separate from each other. Each section could then be more readily accessed because they have already been separately printed.

Further regarding claim 4, Yehuda et al., and Segaya do not teach that the apparatus comprises a copier. However, Maniwa et al., teach a copier 105 including a printer 105b that networks with personal computers (*column 6:lines 1-10*)

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the copier/printer combination in the Yehuda et al./Segaya device because the copying functionality would increase the system's use by clients, thus adding greater value to the system.

Regarding claim 5, the claim rejection for claim 4 is representative of claim 5. See Yehuda et al., wherein said control interface comprises at least a subset quantity selector for specifying a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of job output subsets. (*column 9:lines 49-52, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments*).

Regarding claim 6, the claim rejection for claim 4 is representative of claim 6. See Segaya wherein said control interface comprises at least a subset receptacle selector for selecting an output receptacle from the plurality of receptacles for directing each of said output subsets to (*Figure 13 & column 18:line65-column 19:line 3, user interface screen is accessed on computer, and has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and printer*).

Claims 11 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yehuda et al. (US 6,266,683) & Segaya (US 6,714,313) & Tomita et al. (US 5,550,623).

Regarding claim 11, Yehuda et al., teach creating a plurality of subsets of output documents from a single job wherein at least two of said plurality of output sets have different numbers of documents (*column 7:lines 28-38, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document*), and having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 9:lines 49-52, parsing procedure has functionality to specify*

numbers of sub-parts into segments, *column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents).

Yehuda et al., do not teach a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, no do they teach a copier specifying the number of copies to be placed in each output.

However, Segaya teaches a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, which is accessible through a graphic user interface (*Figure 13*, user interface screen has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and image forming apparatus). Furthermore, Tomita et al., teach a copier that allow user selection of the number of copies (*column 2:lines 59-60*).

Additionally, regarding claim 18, Segaya teaches a computer program product for use with a document production apparatus, the apparatus for executing production jobs to produce job output, the apparatus being of the type that has a plurality of output receptacles for receiving the job output, the program product comprising computer executable instructions embedded in a computer readable medium (*column 9:lines 5-6*, ejection bins stack sorted papers, *column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2*, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus)

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the copier of Tomita et al., with the bin selection unit and computer program taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be copied and kept separate from each other. Allowing a copy job to be selectively divided allows easier distribution of the specific segments, saving the user time and effort.

Regarding claim 18, Yehuda et al., teach creating a plurality of subsets of output documents from a single job wherein at least two of said plurality of output sets have different numbers of documents (*column 7:lines 28-38*, A parsing procedure 82 selectively creates job output "segments" which include one or more sub-parts of the divisible document), and having a subset quantity selector for selecting a number of

output documents to be placed in each of said plurality of output sets made through a graphic user interface displayed on the computer (*column 9:lines 49-52*, parsing procedure has functionality to specify numbers of sub-parts into segments, *column 4:lines 25-42*, document management system 10 uses web applications to view and manage the documents).

Yehuda et al., do not teach a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, no do they teach a copier specifying the number of copies to be placed in each output.

However, Segaya teaches a subset tray selector for selecting by unique identifier which of the plurality of trays to direct each of said output subsets to, which is accessible through a graphic user interface (*Figure 13*, user interface screen has bin selection functionality in which each bin is uniquely identified by bin number and image forming apparatus). Furthermore, Tomita et al., teach a copier that allow user selection of the number of copies (*column 2:lines 59-60*).

Additionally, regarding claim 18, Segaya teaches a computer program product for use with a document production apparatus, the apparatus for executing production jobs to produce job output, the apparatus being of the type that has a plurality of output receptacles for receiving the job output, the program product comprising computer executable instructions embedded in a computer readable medium (*column 9:lines 5-6*, ejection bins stack sorted papers, *column 9:line 62-column 10:line 2*, computer program is stored in a memory medium and is used on apparatus)

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the copier of Tomita et al., with the bin selection unit and computer program taught by Sugaya, in the document management system of Yehuda et al., because the bin sorting system would allow the parsed document segments of Yehuda et al., to be copied and kept separate from each other. Allowing a copy job to be selectively divided allows easier distribution of the specific segments, saving the user time and effort.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle Pendergrass whose telephone number is (703) 306-3445. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (703) 308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Y. Poon' with a stylized flourish at the end.

**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**